

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **SAVE THE DATE**

## **Reconciliation in Iraq Finding Solutions towards Peace and Democracy**

**14 June 2010**

**12h00 – 13h00**

**Dutch Parliament, The Hague, the Netherlands.**

**15h00 – 17h30**

**Clingendael Institute, The Hague, the Netherlands.**

Three major aspects of reconciliation will be at the heart of the two Conferences: Minority issues, Disputed Regions and current developments in Iraq. This will be done through highlighting key economic and political aspects and by bringing together representatives from the Mandaean, Shabak, Yezidi, Chaldo-Assyrian, Turkmen, Kurdish, and Arabic communities, as well as MPs from the Foreign Affairs commission of Dutch parliament, Specialists, Academics and Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations concerned with Iraq will discuss these issues.

The conferences are efforts to provide a platform for policymakers from the ethnic and religious communities of Northern Iraq to voice their opinions and concerns on future policies. Efforts will be made to identify a way forward consistent with the principles of democracy, human rights and the genuine inclusion of all affected communities in the region. These are principles without which a stable Iraq will inevitably remain illusive.

In the Dutch Parliament a Closed Meeting will be held with Iraqi and Dutch policy makers, discussing Minority and regional Issues, and in the Clingendael Institute an Open Conference will focus on future developments in Iraq. They are organized by the Iraqi Turkmen Human Rights Research Foundation (SOITM), in collaboration with the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) and support from the Turkmen Rights Association of Kerkuk, Assyria Foundation and Turkmen Tanis Foundation in the Netherlands.

### **Note to Editors:**

*It is also with great sadness that the conference organizers learn of the assassination of Mr. Bashar Mohammed Hamed on 24 May 2010. Mr. Hamed was due to attend the conference as the elected representative of Mosul to the Iraqi Parliament. Our sympathies go out to Mr. Hamed's family at this time.*

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